Or bitterly to ſpeake in your reproofe,
Beſt fits my degree, or your condition:
Your loue deſerues my thankes, but my deſert
Vnmeritable ſhunes your high requeſt,
Firſt,if all obſtacles were cut away,
And that my path were euen to the Crowne,
As my right reuenew and due by birth;
Yet ſo much is my pouerty of ſpirit,
So mighty and ſo many my defects,
As I had rather hide me from my greatneſſe,
Being a barke to brooke no mighty ſea,
Then in my greatneſſe couet to be hid,
And in the vapour of my glory ſmothered:
But God be thanked thers no need for me,
And much I need to helpe you if need were,
The royall tree hath left vs royall fruit,
Which mellowed by the ſtealing houres of time,
Will well become the ſeate of Maieſty;
And make,no doubt,vs happy by his raigne,
On him I lay what you would on me:
The right and fortune of his happy ſtarres,
Which God defend that I ſhould wring from him.
Buc. My Lord,this argues conſcience in your Grace,
But the reſpects thereof are nice and triuiall,
All circumſtances well conſidered.
You ſay that *Edward* is your brothers ſonne,
So ſay we too but not by *Edwards* wife:
For firſt he was contracted to Lady *Lucy*,
Your mother liues a witneſſe to that vow,
And afterwards by ſubſtitute betrothed
To *Bona* ſiſter to the King of *France*;
Theſe both put by a poore petitioner,
A care-crazd mother of many children,
A beauty-waining and diſtreſſed widdow,
Euen in the afternoone of her beſt dayes,
Made price and purchace of his luſtfull eye,
Seduce the pitch and height of all his thoughts,
To baſe declention loathed bigamy,
By her in this vnlawfull bed he got,

This

This *Edward*,whom our ma
More bitterly could I expo
Saue that for reuerence to ſo
I giue a ſparing limit to my
Then good my Lord,take to
This proffered benefit of di
If not to bleſſe vs and the La
Yet to draw out your royal
From the corruption of a b
Vnto a lineall true deriued
May. Doe good my Lord
Cat. O make them ioyfull
Glo. Alas,why ſhould you
I am vnfit for ſtate and dig
I doe beſeech you take it n
I cannot nor I will not yeil
Buc. If you refuſe it as in
Loth to depoſe the child y
As well we know your tend
And gentle kind effeminate
Which we haue noted in y
And equally indeed to all
Yet whether you except ou
Your brothers ſon ſhall neu
But we will plant ſome oth
To the diſgrace and downef
And in this reſolution here I
Come Citizens, zounds,ile
Glo. O doe not ſweare m
Cat. Call them againe m
Ano. Do good my Lord
Glo. Would you enforce
Well call them againe,I am
But penetrable to your kin
Albeit againſt my conſcienc
Couſin of *Buckingham*,and
Since you will buckle fortu
To beare the burthen wheth
I muſt haue patience to en

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* (STC 22321) LONDON, 1634 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (JA 37